

SYSTEM INTERFACES IN A TWO-WAY  
SATELLITE SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A two-way satellite communication system that includes a terminal having a receiver unit and a transmitter unit is disclosed. The terminal is configured to transmit and receive signals to and from a hub via a satellite. A terminal interface is configured to permit exchange of data between the receiver unit and the transmitter unit, wherein the receiver unit is configured to translate data received from a host to a data frame that conforms to a predetermined protocol format that is supported by the hub. A demodulator interface is coupled to an antenna associated with the terminal and is configured to permit exchange of the data frame between the terminal and the satellite. The data frame conforms with a return channel frame format. A satellite-to-hub interface is configured to permit receipt of the data frame at the hub from the satellite. The hub is configured to modify the data frame for transmission to an external packet switched network. A hub-to-terminal interface is configured to support the exchange of data from the hub to the terminal using a multi-layer protocol.